PHOENIX FIRE DEPARTMENT



FIRE FITFACTS



Principles of Success: Making the Best Choices



Everyday firefighters see the results of people making the wrong choices. The heroine overdose victim that dies because she chose to use drugs; the young child who dies because some anonymous person chose to celebrate by shooting aimlessly into the sky; the family who lost their teenage son because his best friend chose to get behind the wheel after drinking; the neighbor who suffered severe burns because he chose to clean his garage floor with gasoline.

In none of these tragedies did someone choose to die or to hurt someone else. The truth is that they just didn't recognize the other choices they had and the possible consequences of those choices they had made.

- How can we make better choices?
- How can we make choices that lead to positive outcomes rather than negative ones?
- How can we consistently make the **best** choices?

Better Choice Checklist

- ✓ Have I examined all the possible options or choices?
- ✓ Have I examined the possible consequences of each option or choice?
- ☑ Is it legal?
- ☑ When I look back in a day, week, month, or year will I be proud or embarrassed by this choice?
- ☑ Will my choice hurt someone else?
- ☑ Will my choice hurt me?
- ☑ Am I thinking clearly (without envy, anger, sadness, or some other passing emotion)?
- ☑ If I called my grandmother would she approve (Chief Brunacini test)?